

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/680,405

Examiner

Clara Yang

Applicant(s)

UEDA ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on 10/08/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 2.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/08/03, 01/11/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1 and 2 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a vehicular remote locking/unlocking system that comprises: (1) a first transmission means provided in the vehicle for transmitting a request signal to a predetermined area outside the vehicle, wherein the request signal requests transmission of identification information from a portable device; (2) a second transmission means provided in the vehicle for transmitting a disable signal to a predetermined area within the vehicle, wherein the disable signal disables transmission of identification information from a portable device; (3) a trigger means provided in the vehicle for outputting a trigger signal that initiates operation of the first and second transmission means when the trigger means is operated by a vehicle user; and (3) wherein when a trigger means outputs a trigger signal, the second transmission means transmits the disable signal a plurality of times in succession before the first transmission means transmits the request signal, thereby disabling transmission of the identification information from the portable device for a predetermined period of time and operation of the locking/unlocking means when the portable device is located within the vehicle.

Weigl (US 5,969,597) teaches a system and method for preventing misuse of a transponder left inside a vehicle. Weigl's system includes: (a) control system 10 (i.e., first transmission means) arranged in vehicle 20 for transmitting and receiving signals to and from transponders 15a, 15b (see Col. 1, lines 65-67 and Col. 2, lines 1-15 and 31-38); (b) transponders 15a, 15b (i.e., portable devices) for transmitting a reply signal that uniquely characterizes the particular transponder (see Col. 2, lines 35-38); (c) antenna 12 (i.e., receiving means) for

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receiving signals from transponders 15a, 15b outside and inside the vehicle (see Col. 2, lines 9-13 and 31-35); (d) a door handle (i.e., trigger means) for initiating a signal exchange between control system 10 and transponders 15a, 15b (see Col. 2, lines 24-23); and (e) locking and unlocking means for locking and unlocking the vehicle's door when signals are received from authorized transponders 15a, 15b (see Col. 2, lines 24-31 and 59-62). Weigl's method (see Col. 2, lines 24-67 and Col. 3, lines 1-12) comprises the steps of: (1) a user actuating the door handle to cause control system 10 to transmit a check signal (i.e., request signal) to a predetermined area inside the vehicle; (2) any transponder inside the vehicle transmitting its identification information to control system 10; and (3) control system 10 disabling the transponders inside the vehicle by storing the identification information for each transponder in memory 11. Weigl omits teaching a second transmission means that transmits the disable signal a plurality of times in succession before the first transmission means transmits the check signal, thereby disabling transmission of the identification information from transponders 15a, 15b for a predetermined period of time and operation of the locking/unlocking means when transponders 15a, 15b are located within the vehicle.

Baudard (US 6,765,471) teaches a system and method for improving a "hands-free" access system for a vehicle. Baudard's system, as shown in Fig. 1, comprises: (a) central unit 1 (i.e., first transmission means) installed inside vehicle V for transmitting an interrogation signal (i.e., request signal) to coverage area 11 via external antenna 3 and to the area inside the vehicle's cabin via internal antenna 2 (see Col. 3, lines 38-47 and 58-63); (b) identifiers 9 and 10 (i.e., portable devices) for transmitting a "present" signal upon receiving an interrogation signal (see Col. 3, lines 48-63); (c) internal antenna 2 for receiving "present" signals from identifiers inside the cabin (see Col. 3, lines 48-53); (d) triggering means for detecting the closing and

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locking of the vehicle doors and for outputting a signal to initiate transmission of an interrogation signal when the doors close and when the locks are actuated (see Col. 3, lines 38-53); and (e) locking and unlocking means (see Col. 3, lines 43-47 and 64-65; and Col. 4, lines 1-2). Baudard discloses that central unit 1 transmits an interrogation signal inside the cabin after the vehicle is locked (see Col. 3, lines 43-50). Per Baudard, when central unit 1 receives a "present" signal from an identifier left inside the cabin, central unit 1 transmits an inhibit signal to the identifier, preventing the identifier from responding to an interrogation signal emitted by antenna 3 (see Col. 3, lines 53-63). Baudard omits teaching that the vehicle has a second transmission means for transmitting the inhibit signal. Baudard also omits teaching that the triggering means causes the transmission of the inhibit signal to occur before the transmission of the interrogation signal and that the inhibit signal is transmitted a plurality of times in succession.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Takeuchi et al. (US 5,134,392) teach a keyless entry system comprising a transceiver arranged in a vehicle, a portable device, and a triggering means for causing the transceiver to transmit an interrogation signal.
- Boschini (US 5,499,022) teaches a remote control system for a vehicle having a transceiver, a portable device, means for detecting if the portable device is outside of

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or inside vehicle, and an alarm for indicating that the portable device has been left inside the vehicle.


- Stippler (US 6,218,932) teaches a vehicular antitheft device that includes a transceiver for transmitting an interrogation signal, a portable device, triggering means for causing the transceiver to transmit an interrogation signal, and means for determining if the portable device is inside or outside the vehicle.
- Asakura et al. (US 6,744,349) teaches a vehicular remote control system wherein an entry key is disabled to receive the response demand signal and thus to transmit back the response signal when the user walks away from the predetermined first range of the vehicle. When the entry key moves into the predetermined second range and its response demand signal is received by the transmitter/receiver which then responds thereto to send back a response signal, the door is automatically unlocked.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clara Yang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3062. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on (571) 272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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BRIAN ZIMMERMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER